

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/615,777

Examiner

ANH PHUNG

Applicant(s)

HIDAKA, HIDETO

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE received on Nov. 16, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 7/10/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Search History.


ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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Detailed Action

1. In response to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) received on November 16, 2003, claims **1-18** are pending in the application.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. This office acknowledges receipt of the following items from the Applicant:
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed October 20, 2003.
Information disclosed and listed on PTO 1449 was considered.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims **1-18** are allowed.

Ooishi (US 6,714,443), Nahas (US 6,714,442), Gogl et al. (US 6,577,528), Swanson et al. (US 6,493,259) and Perner et al. (US 6,256,224) disclose a magnetic memory device having bit line drive circuits similar to that of the present application, but fail to teach:

“a plurality of bit line drive circuits disposed corresponding to the bit lines and supplying currents according to write data to a corresponding bit line, each bit line drive circuit including; a first drive circuit for supplying a first current to a corresponding bit line in accordance with write data to an adjacent column when the adjacent column is selected; and a second drive circuit for supplying a second current to the corresponding

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bit line in accordance with the write data to the corresponding column when the corresponding column is selected” as claimed in the independent claim 1; or

“a column selecting circuit for selecting a predetermined number of memory cell columns in parallel from the columns of said plurality of magnetic memory cell in accordance with an address signal, said any adjacent columns in said predetermined number of memory cell columns sandwiching at least one bit line; and a plurality of bit line drive circuits disposed corresponding to the bit lines and supplying a current to a corresponding bit line in accordance with write data and a column selection signal from said column selecting circuit” as claimed in the independent claim 9; or

“bit line drive circuitry for supplying current according to write data to a corresponding bit line connecting to a memory cell having said write data written thereinto, said bit line drive circuitry including; a first drive circuit for supplying a first current to the corresponding bit line in accordance with write data to an adjacent column when the adjacent column is selected; and a second drive circuit for supplying a second current to the corresponding bit line in accordance with the write data to a corresponding column when the corresponding column is selected” as claimed in the independent claim 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicants must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comment on Statement of Reasons for Allowance”.

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Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **ANH PHUNG** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1883**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **RICHARD ELMS**, can be reached on **(571) 272-1869**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).

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AKP



**ANH PHUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**